

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for configuring a network that includes one or more network-level partitions and at least one operating system (OS) assigned to each of said one or more network-level partitions, said method comprising the steps of:

dynamically determining when a component is [[added]] connected to a node of said network; and

in response to said dynamically determining step, configuring said network to provide support for said component, wherein, when an OS supports only components within a partition among the one or more network-level partitions to which the OS is assigned, said configuring process includes informing the OS assigned to a partition to which said node belongs of the presence of the component and enabling OS and other support for said component.

2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

registering [[an]] the OS with an a management system of said network, wherein said management system [[to]] provides a notification to each registered OS whenever [[said]] a new component is added to said node and detected by said management system; and

automatically alerting said OS via said management system that said component is added to said node during said configuring step.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said dynamically determining step is completed by said management system and includes the step of monitoring a network via a periodic sweep operation for visible configuration changes that indicate presence of the component.

4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said network includes a switch mechanism and said dynamically determining step includes the steps of:

detecting an addition of said component to a link of said switch mechanism; and

in response to said detecting step, generating a trap message at said node and signaling said management system via [[a]] the trap message that said component is connected to [[on]] said network

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 2 further comprising the steps of:
associating said component to at least one partition of said network from among the one or more network-level partitions;
assigning port attributes to said component; and
associating said component to [[an]] at least one OS [[within]] assigned to said at least one partition.
6. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[5]]~~ 2, further comprising the steps of:
~~detecting~~ determining the [[a]] partition of said network to which said component has been associated;
checking for subscribed consumers within the partition, said subscribed consumers including said one or more OS; and
notifying said OS of said component only when said OS is ~~also associated with~~ assigned to said partition or said OS has subscribed to be notified of new components and has correct access privileges for the partition in which the node exists, wherein each OS is provided predefined access privileges to particular ones of said one or more network-level partitions.
7. (currently amended) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
tracking components that are supported by the OS via a component table;
automatically updating [[a]] the component table available to said OS with information about said component; and
providing OS support to all components registered in said component table.
8. (currently amended) A system for configuring a network, said system comprising:
a network manager that dynamically determines when a component is added to a node of said network and configures said network to provide support for said component, wherein said network is a system area network (SAN) that enables user processes to bypass an OS kernel process and directly access network communication hardware; and
a network administration utility that, and in response to said network manager dynamically determining when a component is added, notifies an OS registered with said

network administration utility that said component is added, wherein said OS updates required OS parameters to enable OS support of said component.

9. (currently amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein said network manager determines when said component is added by monitoring and periodically monitoring scanning said network for configuration changes.

10. (original) The system of Claim 8, wherein said network manager determines when said component is added by receiving a packet from said component indicated that said component is present on said network.

11. (currently amended) The system of Claim 8, further comprising a registration table utilized by said OS for registering said OS ~~with said network administration utility~~ for notification by said network administration utility of an addition of a component; and

12. (original) The system of Claim 11, further comprising:
a partitioning mechanism that associates said component with one or more of a plurality of partitions of said network; and

wherein said network manager notifies said OS only when said OS is associated with a same one of said one or more partitions.

13. (currently amended) The system of Claim 12, further comprising a component registry available to said OS that is updated with information about said component when said component is detected, wherein said OS provides support to all components registered in said component registry to which ~~it~~ said OS has access ~~permission~~ privilege.

14. (currently amended) A network comprising:
a switch;
at least one node linked to said switch for adding components;
a network manager that dynamically determines when a component is added to said at least one node of said network and configures said network to provide support for said

component, wherein said network is a SAN that enables user processes to bypass an OS kernel process and directly access network communication hardware;

[[an]] at least one operating system (OS); and

a network administration utility that, and in response to said network manager, dynamically determining when a component is added, notifies an OS registered with said network administration utility that said component is added, wherein said OS updates required OS parameters to enable OS support of said component.

15. (original) The network of Claim 14, further comprising:

a partition agent that associates said component to one or more partitions of said network and controls access to said component via a partition monitoring function; and

wherein said OS is notified of said component only when said OS has an access permission to a same one of said one or more partitions.

16. (currently amended) The network of Claim 14, wherein said network is a system area network (SAN) that enables user processes to bypass an OS kernel process and directly access network communication hardware.

17. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium; and

program instructions on said computer readable medium for:

dynamically determining when a component is [[added]] connected to a node of said network; and

in response to said dynamically determining step, configuring said network to provide support for said component, wherein an OS supports only components within a partition among the one or more network-level partitions to which the OS is assigned and said configuring process includes informing the OS assigned to a partition to which said node belongs of the presence of the component and enabling OS and other support for said component.

18. (currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 17, further comprising program instructions for:

registering ~~[[an]]~~ the OS with ~~an~~ a management system of said network, wherein said management system ~~[[to]]~~ provides a notification to each registered OS whenever ~~[[said]]~~ a new component is added to said node and detected by said management system; and

automatically alerting said OS via said management system that said component is added to said node during said configuring step.

19. (currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 18 further comprising program instructions for:

associating said component to at least one partition of said network from among the one or more network-level partitions;

assigning port attributes to said component; and

associating said component to ~~[[an]]~~ at least one OS ~~[[within]]~~ assigned to said at least one partition.

20. (currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 19, further comprising program instructions for:

~~detecting~~ determining the ~~[[a]]~~ partition of said network to which said component has been associated;

checking for subscribed consumers within the partition, said subscribed consumers including said one or more OS; and

notifying said OS of said component only when said OS is also associated with ~~assigned~~ to said partition or said OS has subscribed to be notified of new components.

21. (currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 19, further comprising program instructions for:

~~detecting~~ determining a partition of said network to which said component has been associated;

checking for subscribed consumers within the partition, said subscribed consumers including said one or more OS; and

notifying said OS only when said OS has access ~~permission~~ privileges for said partition and said component, wherein each OS is provided predefined access privileges to particular ones of said one or more network-level partitions.

22. (currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 21, further comprising program instructions for:

tracking components that are supported by the OS via a component table;

automatically updating [[a]] the component table available to said OS with information about said component; and

providing OS support to all components registered in said component table.
